

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ARA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 /086 W

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R 121600Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7123

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENNA 9548

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AU

SUBJ: WIESENTHAL FILES SUIT; CHANCELLOR EXPLAINS HIS POSITION  
TO FOREIGN PRESS

REF: VIENNA 9237

1. RESOLUTION IN COURT OF CHARGES AND COUNTERCHARGES  
INVOLVING CHANCELLOR KREISKY AND JEWISH DOCUMENTATION  
CENTER CHIEF SIMON WIESNETHAL, WHICH HAVE GROWN OUT OF  
LATTER'S ALLEGATIONS THAT FREEDOM PARTY CHAIRMAN FREIDRICH  
PETER PROBABLY PARTICIPATED IN LIQUIDATIONS AND OTHER WAR  
CRIMES WHILE MEMBER OF NOTORIOUS SS INFANTRY UNIT IS USSR  
IN WORLD WAR II, APPEARS ASSURED AS RESULT OF SUIT FILED  
BY WIESENTHAL THIS WEEK. COURT IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN  
PROCEEDINGS EARLY NEXT YEAR.

2. MEANWHILE, CHANCELLOR KREISKY CALLED IN FOREIGN  
CORRESPONDENTS ASSIGNED VIENNA ON NOVEMBER 10 TO EXPLAIN  
HIS POSITION AND AGAIN DENOUNCED WIESENTHAL. VIENNA  
PAPERS, WHOSE JOURNALISTS WERE NOT PRESENT AT KREISKY  
MEETING WITH FOREIGN PRESS, REPORTED TWO DAYS LATER  
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GENERAL SUBSTANCE OF KREISKY REMARKS, NAMELY THAT

KREISKY RAISED MATTER OF POSSIBLE COLLABORATION OF WIESENTHAL WITH NAZIS AND SAID TESTIMONY EXISTED THAT WIESENTHAL WORKED AS AGENT IN NAZI ERA. KREISKY SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND THAT WIESENTHAL WANTED TO SAVE HIS OWN LIFE BUT NOW WIESENTHAL DOES NOT HAVE MORAL AUTHORITY TO POINT ACCUSING FINGER AT OTHERS (NAMELY FPO LEADER PETER).

3. KREISKY EXPLAINED TO FOREIGN PRESS HE FELT HE HAD TO DEFEND PETER AND NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT WIESENTHAL HIMSELF HAD SAID HE HAD NO EVIDENCE AGAINST PETER. KREISKY INDICATED HE SPOKE UP BECAUSE OF WIESENTHAL'S METHODS AND CONSTANT SCANDALS, WHICH HE SAID DAMAGED AUSTRIA'S REPUTATION ABROAD AND WAS "SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE." HAD ANYONE ELSE SPOKEN UP, KREISKY ADDED, WIESENTHAL COULD HAVE CHARGED ANTI-SEMITISM.

4. COMMENT: WHAT ORIGINALLY BEGAN AS WIESENTHAL INDIRECT ATTACK ON KREISKY'S POLITICAL JUDGMENT IN DEFENDING PETER, WHO IS ADMITTED FORMER MEMBER OF NOTORIOUS SS UNIT, HAS NOW DEVELOPED INTO MASSIVE HEAD-ON CONFRONTATION BETWEEN WIESENTHAL AND KREISKY IN COURT WHICH WILL SURFACE AGAIN ISSUES CONCERNING WHICH MOST AUSTRIANS WOULD PREFER TO CLOSE BOOK OF HISTORY.BUCHANAN

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## Message Attributes

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